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# American Association for the Advancement of Science

JOHN T. EDSALL, Chairman  
Committee on Scientific  
Freedom and Responsibility

July 7, 1979

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
16 DIVINITY AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS 02138  
(617) 495-2314

Exmo Sr. Presidente de la Republica Argentina  
Lieutensht General Jorge Rafael Videla  
Balcarce 50  
1064 Buenos Aires  
Argentina

Dear President Videla,

May I respectfully request, on behalf of our Committee and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, information concerning the fate of the distinguished electronics engineer, Hector Antonio Abrales, whose kidnapping and disappearance were reported in the Buenos Aires Herald of January 26, 1979. Dr. Abrales was Vice President of the firm Siesa, which imports electronic products, a director of Aselec, an electronic consulting firm, and President of the consultants Cotela. He is reported to have telephoned to his wife on the evening of the day when he was seized, but according to our information nothing has ever been heard of him since.

We have heard from other sources that Dr. Abrales is now definitely believed to be dead; it is reported that he died during an interrogation session. Of course we have no way of knowing the truth of such reports, but on account of the extreme gravity of the information we have received we ask most earnestly for definite information concerning the facts of the case of Dr. Abrales. It is deeply disturbing to us that such things can still happen in Argentina.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has charged our Committee with the responsibility for monitoring conditions throughout the world regarding the status of human rights of scientists and engineers, and endeavoring to be of aid, whenever possible, in helping to correct violations of human rights. Since such a serious violation is alleged to have taken place, in the case of Dr. Abrales, we enter a most earnest plea for clarification and for correction of what has happened., if possible. If Dr. Abrales is still alive, we respectfully request his release from detention, if no charges have been brought against him. If such charges have been brought, we request that he be speedily brought to trial. If he is indeed dead, we urge that this fact be made known, to end the agony of distress and uncertainty that has afflicted his family and friends.

Respectfully yours,

*John T. Edsall*  
John T. Edsall, Chairman

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☐) In Full

(☐) Classify as \_\_\_\_ (☐) Extend as \_\_\_\_ (☐) Downgrade to \_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

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